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index are to flow directly into the lap of the individual scholar, seated at his own desk in his private sanctum, enabling him to discard (not inappropriate word) to the limbo of the great libraries everything that does not directly concern him, while filing within reach of his finger-tips absolutely everything (pardon the optimism of an enthusiast) that he may intimately desire.

How can so Utopian a consummation be most speedily attained?

Let universities and colleges, and all manner of learned institutions and societies, at once appoint committees similar to the Harvard committee (though of course not limited to the natural and physical sciences, since the project of the Royal Society will form only a portion of the great undertaking), to accomplish three preliminary objects:

1. To arouse an intelligent and earnest interest in the subject.

2. To induce the Smithsonian Institution to assume the American leadership of the movement.

3. To convince publishers—primarily the publishers to the respective institutions concerned—of the importance of printing, on slips of the standard size, No. 33, of the American Library Bureau ($7\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cm., 3×5 in. approximately), summaries of their current publications for distribution as publishers' announcements. This size of slip is already widely in use, both publicly and privately, and may well prove to be of the dimensions ultimately adopted by the authorities of the projected international index. A beginning of these publishers' announcements has already been made by Messrs. D. C. Heath & Co., at the personal request of the present writer, and has been favorably submitted to the attention of the Secretaries of the Royal Society by Professor Bowditch, chairman of the Harvard committee. Other leading American pub-

lishers have heartily favored the idea of these card announcements and have promised to introduce them into use.

Columbia College has within a few days appointed, through its University Council, a committee to further the interests of the proposed International Coöperative Catalogue of Scientific Literature.

Yours very truly,

HENRY ALFRED TODD.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE, March 2, 1895.

PITHECANTHROPUS ERECTUS.

EDITOR OF SCIENCE—*Sir*:

In my letter of February 14th occur two expressions which need amendment. For the phrase 'divergent roots,' p. 240, 1st col., first line, read 'divergent root stems;' and for the phrase 'is wider than long,' p. 240, 2d col., fifth line, read 'is much wider than long.'

Yours truly,

HARRISON ALLEN.

PHILADELPHIA, March 4th, 1895.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

Electrical Engineering, for Electric Light Artisans and Students. By W. SLINGO and A. BROOKER. New and revised edition, London, 1895. Longmans. Price, \$3.50.

The object of this work is to cover general electrical engineering, and, taken as a whole, it is probably the most successful attempt yet made in this direction. The demand for a satisfactory general treatment of the applications of electricity is a very large and important one, and anything which supplies this demand is more than welcome. It is very doubtful whether any single work is ever likely to be published which will completely set forth the numerous and rapidly developing branches of electrical science and industry. Nothing short of an encyclopædia of many volumes could be expected to accomplish this result. A general discussion of the most important principles and uses of electricity, particu-